

Mr. Tom Sugrue, Chief  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CC Donut No 94-102

August 1, 2001

Dear Mr. Sugrue:

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As an advocate for the timely deployment of enhanced 911 services, I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of bringing this life-saving technology to the American people as soon as possible. I urge you to continue to make E9-1-1 a high priority at the Federal Communications Commission and to hold firm to the deployment schedule the FCC has established.

I recognize that implementing wireless E9-1-1 is not a simple task and that it requires substantial resources from parties. Bringing enhanced emergency services to the nation will also require the coordinated efforts of the industry, public safety, and the FCC. I applaud your commitment to this important technology and the places that the FCC is working with the parties to resolve problems for timely deployment while at the same time remaining committed to enforcing its rules.

Having said the above, I am concerned that the coordination of effort may be hindered by use of the FCC's waiver process as a delay tactic rather than for legitimate, intended purposes. I am even more concerned of the potential effect waivers may have on the willingness of other industry participants to expend the necessary resources for timely deployment.

The basic wireless E9-1-1 requirements have been in place since 1996. Carriers knew then that they would have to provide Phase I and Phase II capability. Many of the changes made by the FCC since then were made at the carriers' requests and provided greater flexibility as to how and when to implement wireless E9-1-1.

In my view, there has been adequate time for wireless carriers and manufacturers to take the necessary steps which would allow them to meet these long established deadlines. Any further delays in wireless E9-1-1 deployment will, in my opinion, result in the loss of life. Accordingly, any decision on requests for waivers should take into consideration one overriding factor, bringing this life-saving technology to market at the earliest possible date.

I appreciate your work to accomplish this mission, and I urge you to continue working to bring complete deployment of Phase I and II location information to the nation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

*Carlton B. Walls III*

Carlton B. Walls III, ENP  
Project Analyst  
Lancaster County-Wide Communications

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